

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00 SP-02 L-01

EUR-08 ACDA-07 IO-06 DODE-00 PM-03 /059 W

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R 020716Z OCT 76

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3663

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T BAGHDAD 1421

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR IZ SY US

SUBJECT: KURDISH INSURGENT ACTIVITY IN NORTHERN IRAQ

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED FROM USINT SOURCE WHO SAID HE OBTAINED IT FROM MAJOR MOHAMMED SALEH IBRAHIM-AL-ANI, ADJUTANT TO THE COMMANDER OF THE SULAIMANIYAH SECTOR. AL-ANI WAS RECENTLY IN BAGHDAD TO VISIT HIS FAMILY BUT HAS NOW RETURNED TO SULAIMANIYAH.

2. INFILTRATION IN NORTHERN IRAQ BY KURDS CONTROLLED BY JALAL TALABANI IS INCREASING. THE GOI BELIEVES THAT THE INFILTRATORS ARE ENTERING IRAQ OVER THE SYRIAN BORDER BUT THAT MUCH OF THEIR ACTIVITY IS CONCENTRATED IN THE REGION NEXT TO THE TURKISH BORDER BECAUSE THE TERRAIN IN THAT AREA IS MORE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR GUERRILLA OPERATIONS. THE IRAQI FOURTH DIVISION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TURKISH BORDER AREA, AND IT WAS A HELICOPTER OF THE FOURTH DIVISION THAT FIRED ON THE TURKISH BORDER POLICE POST. THE HELICOPTERS HAD  
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BEEN TRACKING KURDISH INFILTRATORS FROM THE AIR.

3. TURKEY AND IRAQ HAVE AGREED TO DEPOPULATE A BORDER AREA OF 25 KILOMETERS ON EACH SIDE OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY. THE GOI IS ALSO SEARCHING ALL VILLAGES WITHIN 50 KILOMETERS OF THE BORDER AT LEAST ONCE PER WEEK.

4. THE GOI IS HAVING CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY LOCATING AND REMOVING THE MINES LAID BY BOTH THE IRAQI ARMY AND THE KURDS DURING THE LONG WAR IN THE NORTH. THE IRAQI ARMY ENGINEERS HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO UNDERTAKE THE JOB AND HAVE ATTEMPTED TO HIRE CIVILIANS AND NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS TO REMOVE MINES FOR A FEE FOR EACH MINE REMOVED. ONE OF THE CIVILIANS WAS RECENTLY KILLED AND ANOTHER LOST A LEG WHEN A MINE THEY WERE ATTEMPTING TO REMOVE EXPLODED.

5. THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT EXPECTS SOME INCREASE IN THE TEMPO OF INSURGENT ACTIVITY DURING THE COMING WINTER. THE GOVERNMENT STILL IS CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT IT CAN BE CONTROLLED SINCE THE TERRAIN ON THE SYRIAN SIDE OF THE BORDER IS DIFFICULT FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT. SO FAR, THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT IRAN IS COOPERATING IN KURDISH INSURGENCY.

6. THE GOI IS APPREHENSIVE OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR THE SYRIAN-BASED KURDISH INSURGENTS. FOR THIS REASON, THE GOI IS CLOSELY WATCHING UNITED STATES-SYRIAN RELATIONS. THE IRAQI REGIME HOPES THAT THE CIA WOULD NOT RESPONSE FAVORABLY TO A REQUEST FROM ASSAD TO SUPPORT THE KURDS AS IT DID WHEN THE REQUEST CAME FROM THE SHAH OF IRAN. GOI CONTACTS IN SYRIA HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO KEEP A CLOSE WATCH FOR ANY SIGNS OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT.

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